

**FOUR MASTERS OF CHINESE STORYTELLING  
VIDEO COLLECTION  
AFC 2004/021**



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Library of Congress  
American Folklife Center  
Archive of Folk Culture

Washington, D.C.

## COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection Number: AFC 2004/021  
Title: Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling Video Collection  
Repository: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
Inclusive Dates: 2001-2004  
Extent (original): 3.3 linear feet (4 boxes) containing 1 monograph with 408 pages and 361 video compact discs (VCDs).  
Collector: Børdahl, Vibeke  
Languages: Chinese, Yangzhou dialect; English  
Abstract: The collection contains recordings of the repertoires of four masters of Chinese storytelling, Dai Buzhang, Fei Zhengliang (Fei Li), Gao Zaihua, and Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection is the product of the “Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling” conducted by Dr. Vibeke Børdahl and Fei Li between 2001 and 2003. During this project, the repertoires of four masters of Chinese storytelling in Yangzhou – Dai Buzhang, Fei Zhengliang (Fei Li), Gao Zaihua, and Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) – were filmed on video for a total of 360 hours of storytelling. The videotapes were then converted into sets of video compact discs (VCDs) and donated to research institutions in Asia, Europe, and the United States.

The four masters recorded for the project were Dai Buzhang of the Dai school of *Journey to the West*, Fei Zhengliang (Fei Zhengliang is the artistic name for Fei Li.) of the Wu school of *Three Kingdoms*, Gao Zaihua of the Kang school of *Three Kingdoms*, and Ren Jitang (Ren Jitang is the artistic name for Ren Dekun.) of the Wang school of *Water Margin*. The collection also includes a medium-length repertory, *Emperor Qian Long Goes South*, told by Ren Jitang. The collection is accompanied by the monograph, *Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video*, edited by Vibeke Børdahl, Fei Li, and Huang Ying. This book provides summaries of the content on each VCD, biographical information about each of the four masters, and descriptive articles about Chinese storytelling in Yangzhou in both Chinese and English.

## BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Vibeke Børdahl, Ph.D., is a senior researcher at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen, Denmark. She has taught Chinese language and literature at the University of Aarhus, the University of Oslo, and the University of Copenhagen, and has published books related to Chinese storytelling listed below. Dr. Børdahl directed the “Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling” project and her work is featured on a web site about Chinese storytelling at <http://www.shuoshu.org/>

## **Bibliography**

Børdahl, Vibeke. *Along the Broad Road of Realism: Qin Zhaoyang's World of Fiction* (London: Curzon Press, 1990)

Børdahl, Vibeke. *The Oral Tradition of Yangzhou Storytelling* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 1996)

Børdahl, Vibeke, ed., *The Eternal Storyteller: Oral Literature in Modern China* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 1999)

Børdahl, Vibeke and Jette Ross. *Chinese Storytellers: Life and Art in the Yangzhou Tradition* (Boston: Cheng & Tsui Co., 2002)

## **SUBJECTS**

### **Languages**

Chinese language

English language

### **Topics**

Storytelling--China--Yangzhou Shi

Storytellers--China--Yangzhou Shi

Folklore--China--Yangzhou Shi

Oral tradition--China--Yangzhou Shi

Tales--China--Yangzhou Shi

Ping shu--China--Yangzhou Shi

### **Location**

Yangzhou Shi (China) [Jiangsu Province]

### **Performers**

Fei, Li [Fei Zhengliang is the artistic name for Fei Li.]

Gao, Zaihua

Ren, Jitang [Ren Jitang is the artistic name for Ren Dekun.]

Dai, Buzhang, 1925-2003

## **ARRANGEMENT**

The video compact discs (VCDs) were originally numbered for each storyteller's range of discs resulting in five series of numbers within the collection. During processing, each VCD was assigned a unique moving image (MV) number. A "Concordance for Moving Images" is included in the appendix of this finding aid to document the correspondence between the MV number and the original number of each VCD.

## **ACCESS**

Duplication of the collection materials is governed by copyright and other restrictions.

## ACQUISITION

The VCDs produced during the “Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling” and the monograph, *Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video* (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2004), were donated to the Archive of Folk Culture at the American Folklife Center by Dr. Vibeke Børdahl in December 2004.

## PREFERRED CITATION

Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling Video Collection, Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## RELATED MATERIALS

The collection of VCDs is also on deposit at the library of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China; Fu Ssu-nien Library, Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan; and Danish Folklore Archives in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video*. Edited by Vibeke Børdahl, Fei Li, and Huang Ying. (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2004) is available in the Library of Congress general collection.

## COLLECTION CONCORDANCE BY FORMAT

### Series I: Manuscripts

Quantity	Physical Extent (original)	Location	Item Numbers
408	pages in the monograph	Box 1	Not applicable

### Series II: Moving Images

Quantity	Physical Extent (original)	Location	Item Numbers
361	video compact discs (VCDs)	Box 2-Box 4	MV001-MV361

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series I: Manuscript Series

#### Box 1 of 4

**Folder 1** Finding Aid. 15 pages.

**Folder 2** *Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video*. Edited by Vibeke Børdahl, Fei Li, and Huang Ying. (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2004). This book provides a detailed log of the content on each VCD, biographical information about each of the four masters, and descriptive articles about Chinese storytelling in Yangzhou. 408 pages.

### Series II: Moving Images Series

To play a VCD with Windows Media Player, insert the VCD in the CD or DVD tray of your computer. Open the Windows Media Player, click on "File" and then "Open." A dialog box will appear, listing the MPEGAV folder. Under "Files of Type," select "Any File." A .dat file should appear in the dialog box. Double click on the .dat file, and the video will launch in the Windows Media Player view window.

#### Box 2 of 4

##### MV001 - MV100

Dai Buzhang performing *Journey to the West* in one hundred days of storytelling. Recorded April 8, 2003 - October 24, 2003.

##### MV101 - MV150

Fei Li (Fei Zhengliang) performing the First Part of *Three Kingdoms* in fifty days of storytelling. Recorded April 8, 2003 - June 8, 2003.

##### MV151 - MV172

Gao Zaihua performing the Central Part of *Three Kingdoms* in one hundred days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - December 5, 2002.

#### Box 3 of 4

##### MV173 - MV260

Gao Zaihua continues performing the Central Part of *Three Kingdoms* in one hundred days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - December 5, 2002.

##### MV261 - MV342

Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing the *Wu Song Saga* from *Water Margin* in eighty-eight days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - November 15, 2002.

**Box 4 of 4****MV343 - MV348**

Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) continues performing the *Wu Song Saga* from *Water Margin* in eighty-eight days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - November 15, 2002.

**MV349 - MV360**

Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing *Emperor Qian Long Goes South* in twelve days of storytelling. Recorded November 16, 2002 - December 3, 2002.

**MV361**

The video compact disc that was included with the book, *Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video*, contains selections from each of the four masters on the first day of recording.

**Concordance for Moving Images**

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>	
MV001	1	Dai Buzhang performing <i>Journey to the West</i> begins.
MV002	2	
MV003	3	
MV004	4	
MV005	5	
MV006	6	
MV007	7	
MV008	8	
MV009	9	
MV010	10	
MV011	11	
MV012	12	
MV013	13	
MV014	14	
MV015	15	
MV016	16	
MV017	17	
MV018	18	
MV019	19	
MV020	20	
MV021	21	
MV022	22	
MV023	23	
MV024	24	
MV025	25	
MV026	26	
MV027	27	

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>
MV028	28
MV029	29
MV030	30
MV031	31
MV032	32
MV033	33
MV034	34
MV035	35
MV036	36
MV037	37
MV038	38
MV039	39
MV040	40
MV041	41
MV042	42
MV043	43
MV044	44
MV045	45
MV046	46
MV047	47
MV048	48
MV049	49
MV050	50
MV051	51
MV052	52
MV053	53
MV054	54
MV055	55
MV056	56
MV057	57
MV058	58
MV059	59
MV060	60
MV061	61
MV062	62
MV063	63
MV064	64
MV065	65
MV066	66
MV067	67
MV068	68
MV069	69

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>	
MV070	70	
MV071	71	
MV072	72	
MV073	73	
MV074	74	
MV075	75	
MV076	76	
MV077	77	
MV078	78	
MV079	79	
MV080	80	
MV081	81	
MV082	82	
MV083	83	
MV084	84	
MV085	85	
MV086	86	
MV087	87	
MV088	88	
MV089	89	
MV090	90	
MV091	91	
MV092	92	
MV093	93	
MV094	94	
MV095	95	
MV096	96	
MV097	97	
MV098	98	
MV099	99	
MV100	100	Dai Buzhang performing <i>Journey to the West</i> ends.
MV101	1	Fei Li (Fei Zhengliang) performing the First Part of <i>Three Kingdoms</i> begins.
MV102	2	
MV103	3	
MV104	4	
MV105	5	
MV106	6	
MV107	7	
MV108	8	



<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>
MV109	9
MV110	10
MV111	11
MV112	12
MV113	13
MV114	14
MV115	15
MV116	16
MV117	17
MV118	18
MV119	19
MV120	20
MV121	21
MV122	22
MV123	23
MV124	24
MV125	25
MV126	26
MV127	27
MV128	28
MV129	29
MV130	30
MV131	31
MV132	32
MV133	33
MV134	34
MV135	35
MV136	36
MV137	37
MV138	38
MV139	39
MV140	40
MV141	41
MV142	42
MV143	43
MV144	44
MV145	45
MV146	46
MV147	47
MV148	48
MV149	49
MV150	50

Fei Li (Fei Zhengliang) performing the First Part of *Three Kingdoms* ends.

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>	
MV151	1	Gao Zaihua performing the Central Part of <i>Three Kingdoms</i> begins.
MV152	2	
MV153	3	
MV154	4	
MV155	5	
MV156	6	
MV157	7	
MV158	8	
MV159	9	
MV160	10	
MV161	11	
MV162	12	
MV163	13	
MV164	14	
MV165	15	
MV166	16	
MV167	17	
MV168	18	
MV169	19	
MV170	20	
MV171	21	
MV172	22	
MV173	23	
MV174	24	
MV175	25	
MV176	26	
MV177	27	
MV178	28	
MV179	29	
MV180	30	
MV181	31	
MV182	32	
MV183	33	
MV184	34	
MV185	35	
MV186	36	
MV187	37	
MV188	38	
MV189	39	
MV190	40	
MV191	41	

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>
MV192	42
MV193	43
MV194	44
MV195	45
MV196	46
MV197	47
MV198	48
MV199	49
MV200	50
MV201	51
MV202	52
MV203	53
MV204	54
MV205	55
MV206	56
MV207	57
MV208	58
MV209	59
MV210	60
MV211	61
MV212	62
MV213	63
MV214	64
MV215	65
MV216	66
MV217	67
MV218	68
MV219	69
MV220	70
MV221	71
MV222	72
MV223	73
MV224	74
MV225	75
MV226	76
MV227	77
MV228	78
MV229	79
MV230	80
MV231	81
MV232	82
MV233	83

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>	
MV234	84	
MV235	85	
MV236	86	
MV237	87	
MV238	88	
MV239	89	
MV240	90	
MV241	91	
MV242	92	
MV243	93	
MV244	94	
MV245	95	
MV246	96	
MV247	97	
MV248	98	
MV249	99	
MV250	100	
MV251	101	
MV252	102	
MV253	103	
MV254	104	
MV255	105	
MV256	106	
MV257	107	
MV258	108	
MV259	109	
MV260	110	Gao Zaihua performing the Central Part of <i>Three Kingdoms</i> ends.
MV261	1	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing the <i>Wu Song Saga</i> from <i>Water Margin</i> begins.
MV262	2	
MV263	3	
MV264	4	
MV265	5	
MV266	6	
MV267	7	
MV268	8	
MV269	9	
MV270	10	
MV271	11	
MV272	12	

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>
MV273	13
MV274	14
MV275	15
MV276	16
MV277	17
MV278	18
MV279	19
MV280	20
MV281	21
MV282	22
MV283	23
MV284	24
MV285	25
MV286	26
MV287	27
MV288	28
MV289	29
MV290	30
MV291	31
MV292	32
MV293	33
MV294	34
MV295	35
MV296	36
MV297	37
MV298	38
MV299	39
MV300	40
MV301	41
MV302	42
MV303	43
MV304	44
MV305	45
MV306	46
MV307	47
MV308	48
MV309	49
MV310	50
MV311	51
MV312	52
MV313	53
MV314	54

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>	
MV315	55	
MV316	56	
MV317	57	
MV318	58	
MV319	59	
MV320	60	
MV321	61	
MV322	62	
MV323	63	
MV324	64	
MV325	65	
MV326	66	
MV327	67	
MV328	68	
MV329	69	
MV330	70	
MV331	71	
MV332	72	
MV333	73	
MV334	74	
MV335	75	
MV336	76	
MV337	77	
MV338	78	
MV339	79	
MV340	80	
MV341	81	
MV342	82	
MV343	83	
MV344	84	
MV345	85	
MV346	86	
MV347	87	
MV348	88	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing the <i>Wu Song Saga</i> from <i>Water Margin</i> ends.
MV349	1	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing <i>Emperor Qian Long Goes South</i> begins.
MV350	2	
MV351	3	
MV352	4	

<b>Moving Image Number (MV)</b>	<b>Original Number</b>	
MV353	5	
MV354	6	
MV355	7	
MV356	8	
MV357	9	
MV358	10	
MV359	11	
MV360	12	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing <i>Emperor Qian Long Goes South</i> ends.
MV361	Not applicable	The video compact disc that was included with the book, <i>Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video</i> , contains selections from each of the four masters on the first day of recording.